

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated January 21, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 7 and 9-11 remain in the application. Claim 9 is amended, and claim 11 is newly added.

In the Office Action, claim 9 is objected to because of informalities; claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,449 to Shin ("Shin '449") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,963,279 to Taguchi ("Taguchi"); and claims 7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,737,049 to Shin ("Shin '049") in view of Taguchi and further in view of Shin '449.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the objection because of informalities. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

The rejection of claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin '449 in view of Taguchi is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 7 and 10 are allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a passivation layer covering the data wire and the thin film transistor, except the drain electrode, the passivation layer being covered by the pixel electrode, the passivation layer exposing the gate insulating layer except portions of the gate insulating layer where the data wire, the thin film transistor, and pixel electrode are formed." Shin '449 and Taguchi, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 10 are allowable over Shin '449 in view of Taguchi.

The Examiner admits that Shin '449 does not teach this feature and relies on Taguchi to cure this defect. The Examiner identifies Figure 19 of Taguchi as disclosing this feature. In Taguchi the protection film 51 does not cover the signal electrode 42, because the signal electrode 42 is exposed as shown in Figure 19. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10 are allowable over Shin '049 in view of Taguchi.

The rejection of claims 7, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin '049 in view of Taguchi and further in view of Shin '449 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 7, 9, and 10 are allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a passivation layer covering the data wire and the thin film transistor, except the drain electrode, the passivation layer being covered by the pixel electrode, the passivation layer exposing the gate insulating layer except portions of the gate insulating layer where the data wire, the thin film transistor, and pixel electrode are formed." Shin '049, Taguchi, and Shin '449, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7, 9, and 10 are allowable over Shin '049 in view of Taguchi and further in view of Shin '449.

Like discussed above, the Examiner admits that Shin '049 also does not teach this feature and relies on Taguchi to cure this defect. As discussed above, the Examiner identifies Figure 19 of Taguchi as disclosing this feature. In Taguchi the protection film 51 does not cover the signal electrode 42, because the signal electrode 42 is exposed as shown in Figure 19. Accordingly, claims 7, 9, and 10 are allowable over Shin '049 in view of Taguchi and further in view of Shin '449.

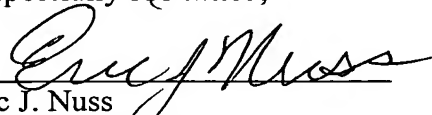
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By



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